

Where has your water been?

The Sierra Nevada region is the state's most critical water supply. Investment in Sierra watersheds is important to every Californian.

Water exported from Sierra Nevada watersheds sustains California's farms, cities and supports energy sources, providing 65 percent of the State's water supply.

Reliable and adequate water supply is critical to the State's economic and environmental vitality. About 80 percent of the Sierra Nevada water is used for farms and cities in California. The Sierra is a remarkable natural storage system. Our water is stored in annual snowpack. Healthy forests and meadows are important in maintaining this storage capability.

Scientific predictions suggest a warming climate will lead to less snow falling and more rain. A warmer weather pattern means increased chances of flooding and less water available downstream when it is needed most.

Watershed: An area of land within which water flows down into a specified body, such as a river, lake, sea, or ocean; a drainage or catchment basin.

Investing in the state's primary watersheds is a long-term solution to many challenges, such as:

- increasing water demands
- threatened water quality
- climate change impacts
- increased catastrophic fires

Long-term investment must occur to preserve critical natural areas and working landscapes, restore and rehabilitate watersheds, and support local efforts to develop sustainable economic activities.